

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 739

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: REACTION TO NORTHERN IRELAND PORTION QUEEN'S SPEECH

1. PORTION TEXT QUEEN'S SPEECH OCT. 29 RELATING NORTHERN
IRELAND AS CARRIED BY LOCAL PRESS FOLLOWS:

"MY MINISTERS WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION
IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
WILL PROVIDE A MEANS BY WHICH THOSE ELECTED TO IT CAN CONSIDER
WHAT PROVISION FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND IS
LIKELY TO COMMAND THE MOST WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE THROUGHOUT
THE COMMUNITY: ANY SOLUTION MUST, IF IT IS TO WORK, PROVIDE
FOR SOME FORM OF GENUINE POWER-SHARING AND PARTICIPATION
BY BOTH COMMUNITIES IN THE DIRECTION OF AFFAIRS IN NORTHERN
IRELAND. MY MINISTERS WILL CONTINUE TO ACT DECISIVELY AGAINST
TERRORISM AND LAWLESSNESS. THEY ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE
TO CO-OPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
IRELAND IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY AND IN THE OTHER MATTERS
OF MUTUAL INTEREST."

2. LOCAL REACTION GENERALLY CAUTIOUS WITH PROTESTANT NEWS
LETTER WELCOMING RECESSION OF "IRISH DIMENSION" INTO
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"THE MISTS OF THE PAST." CATHOLIC IRISH NEWS CARRIED

ROUNDUP REACTIONS POLITICAL FIGURES. HIGHLIGHTED WAS PADDY DEVLIN, SDLP, WHO FOUND SPEECH DISAPPOINTING IN CONTRAST LABOUR PARTY MANIFESTO IN WHICH HE CLAIMED (A) GENUINE PARTICIPATION BOTH SECTIONS COMMUNITY IN DIRECTION OF AFFAIRS, (B) THAT PATTERN OF GOVERNMENT MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO UNITED KINGDOM AS A WHOLE AND TO PARLIAMENT AT WESTMINSTER AND (C) THAT NORTHERN IRELAND SHARES COMMON LAND FRONTIER WITH IRISH REPUBLIC AND ANY POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP MUST RECOGNIZE AND PROVIDE FOR THIS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP. DEVLIN ALSO CITED LACK REFERENCE INTERNMENT AND WONDERED WHY WISDOM OF HAVING GENERAL ELECTION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WAS NOT RPT NOT CALLED INTO QUESTION.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH CONSUL GENERAL BEFORE QUEEN'S SPEECH JOHN HUME DEPUTY LEADER SDLP MUSED THAT INDEFINITE SUSPENSION CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COULD BE HELPFUL. IMPORTANT THING HE SAID WAS FOR UNIONISTS AGREE SIT DOWN, PREFERABLY INFORMALLY, TO DISCUSS WHOLE RANGE CURRENT AND FUTURE PROBLEMS.

4. ALLIANCE PARTY WELCOMED REITERATION OF DETERMINATION INVOLVE BOTH COMMUNITIES IN NORTH IN GOVERNMENT. UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) PARLIAMENTARIANS EXPRESSED INTENT TABLE AMENDMENT TO DEBATE REGRETTING ABSENCE ANY REFERENCE TO URGENCY STRENGTHENING REGULAR AND RESERVE POLICE FORCE. OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY (WEST) MANAGED TO FIND "UNREALISTIC RESURGENCE OF IRISH DIMENSION."

5. IN GENERAL LOCAL REACTIONS QUEEN'S SPEECH MODERATE AND FAVORABLE WITH CONSENSUS BEST EXPRESSED BY NEWS LETTER COMMENT REGARDING "CAREFULLY CHOSEN WORDS" IN SPEECH. "MR. WILSON HAS LEARNED SOMETHING FROM THE MISTAKES OF HIS PREDECESSOR." SPICER

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